

## **Chapter 4 - Relations with Public or Other Agencies**

The Project Manager (PM) must:

- Provide information about construction contract work to inform the travelling public and media
- Assure that the permit provisions of the Motor Carrier Services Unit and other agencies are not violated
- Address concerns of the travelling public, adjacent businesses and owners, and other agencies are addressed
- Assure that the Contractor accommodates emergency services
- Provide project information to the appropriate mobility coordinator.

The PM should provide project information to the local media so that local residents are made aware of the project scope, schedule, and impacts to traffic. The PM may wish to obtain assistance from the Region Public Affairs representative. Update information to the media regularly and as needed.

Record significant events, happenings, or communications in the project diary.

The PM and involved project personnel should be aware of the requirements of permits that have been issued for the project. They must assure that the contractor also is aware of the permit requirements to avoid violations. It may be appropriate for the PM to have a separate discussion with the Contractor about permit requirements for the project. This should occur near the pre-construction conference meeting. Refer to Chapter 11 - Before On-Site Work Can Begin.

Establish relations with the permitting agency so that the project can be completed without a permit violation. The ODOT Region Environmental Coordinator (REC) is a resource for the PM pertaining to environmental issues. Refer to Chapter 21 – Permits.

The PM must assure that the Contractor or others notify the affected emergency services of any closures that may affect the emergency services. For normal contract activities, the Contractor must allow emergency vehicles to access or pass through the work area without delay.

The project work cannot prevent movement of oversize vehicles through the project without coordination with the Freight Mobility Coordinator. PM must notify the Motor Carrier Services Section, 28 days prior to the restriction date to allow them to notify and prohibit oversize vehicles through the project. Project workers, the oversize vehicle, the project work, and other vehicles and their occupants could be endangered if an oversized vehicle accidentally tries to go through the restriction.

The PM must be aware of and inform the Contractor, as appropriate, about Right of Way limits and use of adjacent property. The Contractor must not enter adjacent property without proper permission.

If project activities require the acquisition of or entry on other property, the PM must take action to secure a permit of entry or for ODOT to acquire the property before allowing any access to the property without proper permission. Refer to Chapter 29 - Right of Way and Accesses.

Members of the travelling public and adjacent businesses often will contact the Inspector or PM with concerns regarding the project. The ODOT representative, and the Contractor's representative when involved, must remain courteous to these persons even though they may be registering a complaint. When valid issues are raised, the Inspector should take timely action to correct those issues and should involve the PM if necessary.

Adjacent property owners and businesses may raise a concern that impacts a Right of Way obligation that was negotiated for the project. It may be appropriate to involve the ODOT Right of Way representative in those discussions.